

November 22, 1999, which international application was published in English.

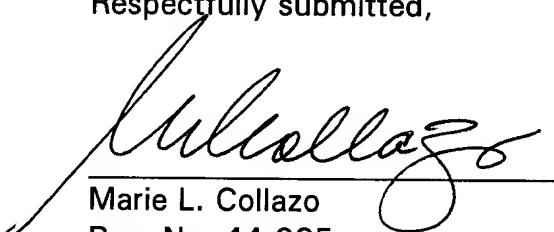
#### REMARKS

The application has been amended to recite that it claims benefit of a prior filed, copending international application designating the United States of America, as required by 37C.F.R. 1.78(a)(2).

Early examination on the merits is respectfully solicited.

Dated: November 20, 2001

Respectfully submitted,



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Serial No. 09/856,322

Preliminary Amendment